



# Story of a century of ink

The National Art Museum of China has been archiving the master works of Chinese ink for more than five decades. Its new exhibition presents the finest ink paintings dating back to the early 1920s.

When viewed decade by decade, the story of modern China's artists emerges.

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# Djokovic, Williams dominate matches in 10th China Open

By Zhao Hongyi

The 10th China Open began in Beijing on September 27 after a spirited charity match between Li Na and Novak Djokovic. The year's tournament drew such top tennis players as Serena Williams, Rafael Nadal, Caroline Wozniacki and Sam Querrey.

Li and Djokovic kicked off the contest by cutting a huge cake. The seven ace shots of their match resulted in Li's sponsor, Kunlun Mineral Water, donating 42,000 yuan to the Song Qingnian Foundation for the development of tennis among Chinese youth.

The two-week competition wrapped up over the weekend with Cara Black and Sania Mirza defeating Vera Dushevina and Arantxa Santonja 6-2, 6-2 in the Women's Doubles on October 4. The win was their second after the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo in August.

Serena Williams won the Women's Singles on October 6, defeating Jelena Jankovic by 6-2, 6-2 after cruising past Agnieszka Radwanska 6-2, 6-2 in the semifinals.

In the Men's Doubles, Max Mirnyi and Horia Tecau beat Fabio Fognini and Andrei Seppi 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday. It was Mirnyi and Tecau's fifth



Djokovic at the champion celebration

pairing for a doubles championship match. They were the runners-up at the Sydney International in January and the ATP International Tennis Championships in March.

"Thanks to all the Chinese fans who came to all of our matches," Tecau said at the awards ceremony following the game. "There was always a big crowd, and it's more fun for us to play in front of a crowd, so thanks for coming out every day – not just today."

"We really enjoyed playing here, thanks for all the support," Seppi said.

On Sunday, Kovak Djokovic became the Men's Singles champion after beating Rafael Nadal by 6-3, 6-4 on Diamond Court. The win



Williams at the prize winning celebration

CFP Photos

was Djokovic's fourth at a China open. He attributed the success to hard training for the doubles tournament with his partner Stanislas Wawrinka.

"To get that positive energy on the court (and) share the court with somebody – that's something you don't get to

feel when you're playing singles," he said. "There is no doubt I was serving great and getting a lot of free points on that part of my game."

Nadal said Djokovic's serve was unstoppable.

"I wasn't able to give myself an advantage on any return during the whole

match," he said. "He was able to hit all the balls that he wanted. When that happens against a player like Novak, you are dead."

Local favorite Li Na lost to Petra Kvitova from Czech Republic 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the round before the semi-finals last Tuesday.

In the Women's Doubles, the team of Peng Shuai and Hsieh Su-wei was defeated by Vera Dushevina of Russia and Arantxa Parra Santonja of Spain in the semifinals by 6-3, 1-6 and 8-10.

Stacey Allaster, CEO of Women's Tennis Association, presented an award to Serena Williams to celebrate the tournament's 10th anniversary. Awards were also given to Jelena Jankovic and Peng Shuai in recognition of their having played in every China Open to date.

Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams received the Pioneer Award and Novak Djokovic and Svetlana Kuznetsova won the Most Outstanding Award.

The Diamond Achievement Award went to Agnieszka Radwanska and Tomas Berdych.

Caroline Wozniacki won the Star Award, as she won both a singles and a doubles title in Beijing at the China Open.

## Scalpers stop lawyers' attempts to access to Chaoyang Jail

By Zhao Hongyi

It's 1 pm and the halls of Chaoyang Jail are jammed with people waiting to get a number to meet an inmate. Most have been waiting since the morning, when they discovered the jail's tickets were sold out.

"I've had clients in almost every jail in Beijing, but the ones in Chaoyang Jail are the absolute most difficult to meet," said a lawyer who was present and refused to be named.

The problem began when Chaoyang Jail instituted a ticketing system for access to its 16 windows. When scalpers discovered the system, they began lining up at 3 am to buy up all the tickets for the morning.

At 10 am, the scalpers pull up in a van to sell off the tickets to any lawyers in need of urgent access. Any who refuse to buy must wait until 1 pm for a second chance.

Lou Qiuqing, a lawyer at the Tianda Law Firm, said he and other lawyers had failed to meet their clients in Chaoyang Jail on three occasions because they refused to buy a number from the scalpers.

"The situation in Chaoyang Jail is serious," said Xu Lanting, a criminal lawyer who was left waiting for four hours when she discovered the morning's tickets were sold out.

"There is so much time being wasted," she said.

The Beijing Police Bureau publishes the phone num-



Individuals are full of the jail door.

BYD Photo

bers of 19 city jails so lawyers and relatives can book a meeting. Only Chaoyang Jail forces the lawyers and relatives buy tickets, allowing only 35 ticket holders to

enter during the morning.

The jail justifies the practice because it has only 16 windows: far too few given the number of people it detains.

"Chaoyang Jail detains

more criminals and suspected criminals than any other jail in the capital. They should be extending their hours so lawyers can meet with their clients later in the day or on weekends," Xu Lanting said. "Sixteen windows is ridiculous."

"They also should be checking the papers of anyone buying a number. There's no reason to sell so many numbers to people without any legal credentials," she said.

In its attempt to "crack down" on the scalpers, the jail arrested a woman surnamed Zhang from Gansu Province.

Staff at the jail said they are attempting to make the process more orderly and catch anyone exploiting the tickets for profit.



# Taxi market's severe corruption spreads to licensed drivers

By Zhao Hongyi

October 1 marked the beginning of the National Day holiday, the seven-day break during which tourists pour into Tian'anmen Square.

This year, tourists who set foot in the city were immediately set upon by illegal taxi drivers ready to use every means possible to cheat them. Many even cooperated with licensed taxi drivers to defraud both customers and the Tax Bureau.

The week made it clear that the capital's deteriorating taxi situation is a puzzle that will hurt the pockets of the men at the top.



Illegal taxi drivers vie for customers. Many use legal connections to illegally print fapiao.

CFP Photo

## A new level of fraud

Dozens of illegal taxi are lined up, waiting to snap up tourists fresh off the train at Beijing West Railway Station.

Many attempt to gouge visitors by charging as much as 100 yuan for a trip to Tian'anmen Square: a distance of 7 kilometers that normally costs less than 30 yuan.

But the truly clever drivers came with assistance.

Customers who wanted fapiao, or Tax Bureau approved receipts, were led to actual taxis using hacked machines that could print invoices for any amount.

Beijing Today's reporters hired a licensed driver from Yuyang Taxi after negotiating a rate of 80 yuan for the ride to Tian'anmen Square. During the ride, the driver plugged in his black box, set the date to October 1 and printed out a fapiao for 154 yuan.

"You can take this back to your boss to make some money on it," he said. "I guarantee the fapiao will pass inspection."

When we phoned the taxi company to confirm the driver's number and the number of the receipt.

The staff said that it was



The driver prints fake receipts.

a valid fapiao. However, the receipt was missing the second stamp on the bottom needed to prove its authenticity to the tax bureau. The staff said they would investigate and fine drivers who were using their machines to print false invoices.

Similar operations were reported by visitors at Beijing Railway Station and Beijing Capital International Airport.

## Broken from the top

But even when they are not gouging their passengers, illegal drivers earn far more than their licensed peers.

Taxi drivers blame the companies.

In Beijing, a taxi costs about 10,000 yuan. Drivers pay



Real invoices have stamps on the bottom.

4,000-5,000 yuan to the taxi company each month: they can keep the remainder, though much of it is used to pay for repairs and insurance.

Most drivers are left with less than 3,000 yuan.

Soaring inflation, stagnant pay and companies who always want a larger cut have decimated driver morale. Most licensed taxi drivers prefer to sleep in their cars or visit their friends rather than drive during rush hour.

But the companies have their own complaints.

City laws that quickly push aging vehicles off the street, health and social security payments and operational costs are squeezing many of them.

Two months ago, the Beijing Municipal Government held a public hearing that ended in an agreement to raise the cost per kilometer from 1.2 yuan to 2 yuan.

The taxi companies immediately increased the amount they collect from their drivers skimming off the extra money and leaving the drivers' pay unchanged.

In the local market, only registered taxi companies are allowed to have licensed taxis. The companies are in charge of purchasing the cars and operating the business. Independent drivers are forbidden from participating.

Drivers who acquiesce to work for a company must

drive eight hours a day. No driver working for any registered taxi company earns more than 8,000 yuan per month: most average about 4,000 yuan.

## Road to deregulation

"The only resolution is to free the market," said Gao Fengchun, a retired traffic official. "We have to allow individuals to run a taxi business however they like."

Gao said that for the sake of passenger safety all driver should still be registered with the traffic authorities before taking on passengers.

"It's too soon to experiment with the free market," said Chen Haobiao, an official at the Municipal Traffic Bureau. "The companies should find a way to take less of their drivers' money."

The municipal government is cracking down on illegal taxis and encouraging drivers to carpool in and out of the downtown area.

"I believe the market will open sooner or later," said Wang Jun, a professor of social science at Peking University. "It's the only real solution at this point."



# Deep laughs and introspection

By Annie Wei

If you're in the mood for deep thoughts and laughter, these two galleries offer some impressive exhibitions.

## Braving the dangers of laughter

798 Art District was packed with tourists and street vendors over the holiday.

But there are still a few real galleries clinging to the area.

Galleria Continua Beijing, which turns 10 next year, is one of them.

From now through February 23 it will present the solo exhibition of Qiu Zhijie.

Born in Zhangzhou, Fujian Province in 1969, Qiu graduated from the printmaking department of the China Academy of Art in 1992 to become one of the nation's most active conceptual artists.

His work spans many media, from printmaking to video, photography, performance, sculpture and painting.

Although he wears many hats – artist, curator, writer, professor and scholar – Qiu has been amazingly prolific. Most of his exhibitions present striking themes and new material.

This constant innovation has made Qiu an intellectual powerhouse in the world of contemporary Chinese art. Most of his works are heavily involved in historical, social and academic issues, outlining Eastern and Western culture of the past and present.

Satire, his latest exhibition, was inspired by *The Name of the Rose*, a book by Italian philosopher Umberto Eco.

The story explores a chain of murders in a monastery. While first attributed to evil spirits, an investigation proves they are connected to the legendary second volume of Aristotle's "On Poetics," the only copy of which is in the monastery's library.

Aristotle talks about tragedy in the first volume and how laughter can bring pleasure to the world in the second. The idea was unbearable for a medieval world under theocratic rule – especially at a time when the church believed laughter would subvert order and the authority.

The exhibition is Qiu's version of the lost book, with each "chapter" showcasing one of his pieces related to laughter.

The entrance has 80 masks painted with colorful faces that visitors can wear. The assortment was inspired by traditional masks worn in Chinese festivals in ancient times. Qiu said the masks would allow viewers to become part of the exhibition.

In the main hall is an installation with 30 laughing Buddhas carved on bamboo roots. Together they support large crossties: a contrast between industrial and political oppression and the laughing Buddha of Chinese culture.

The second floor has 50 laughing Elmo toys scattered about the floor beside serious books such as *The Bible* and *Theories of Marxism*.

The exhibition also included a performance piece on opening day, as well as an ongoing display of photos and videos.



The Map of Busy Gods, 2013



Elysian Fields, 2013, made of crossties, bamboo root carvings and electrical components



Cannot Hold It Anymore, made of books and Elmo toys



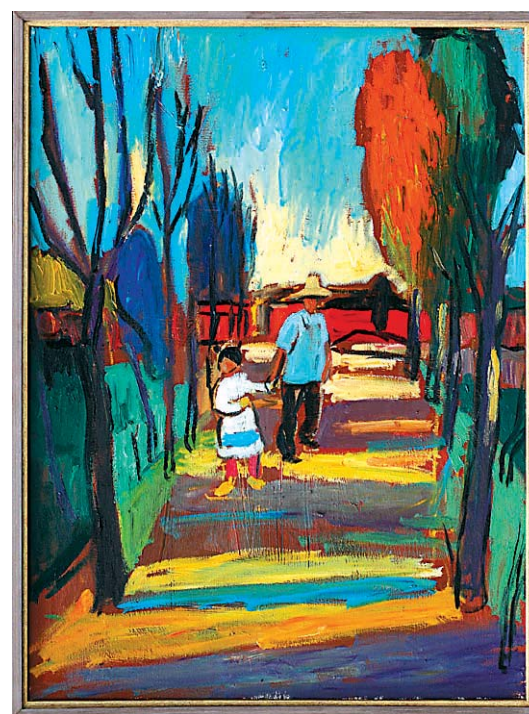
Cannot Hold It Anymore



## ction



*The Plan of 100 Unicorns, an on-going project started in 2012*



*View from Qin Qi*

## Sketching the role of classic tools

Platform China Contemporary Art Institute at Caochangdi is approaching the end of its year-long project: Life Drawing.

Using the simple theme of sketching, the institute invited a dozen artists to define and express the meaning of the practice through their own work.

The gallery said that sketching is more than an enjoyable creative exercise for artists: it's a vehicle for exploring creative ideas.

But since 1980s, the development of advanced photographic techniques and new equipment has led many artists to swap traditional tools for digital aids.

The exhibition explores what concepts and topics participating artists value and what use the sketch has in contemporary creation.



*Yard from Zhang Yexing*



*Elysian Fields, 2013*

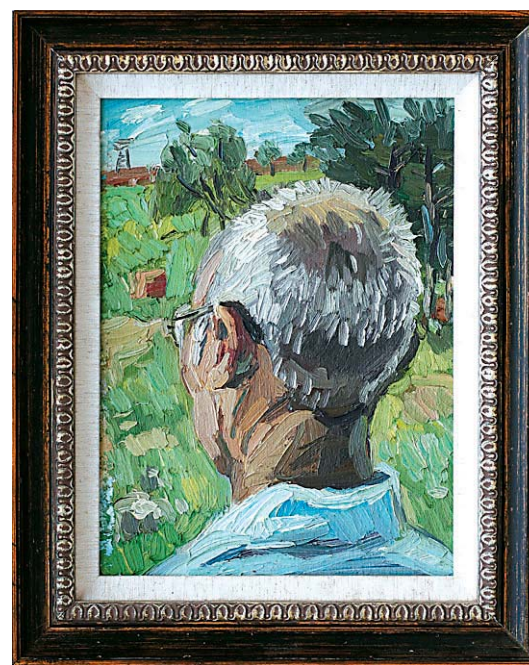
Photos provided by Galleria Continua/Meng Wei

### Galleria Continua Beijing

Where: Dashangzi 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: Through February, 2014  
Open: 11 am – 6 pm, closed Mondays  
Tel: 5878 9505

### Platform China Contemporary Art Institute

Where: 319-1 Caochangdi, Chaoyang District  
When: Through October  
Open: 11 am – 6 pm  
Tel: 6432 0091



*Backside of the Head, from Qin Qi*

Photos provided by Platform China



# Exhibition shows a century of Chinese ink art



By Zhao Hongyi

The National Art Museum of China (NAMOC) is exhibiting the master works of Chinese ink painting through October 28.

Since the 1960s, the National Art Museum of China (NAMOC) has maintained its own collection of Chinese ink paintings. The works span from the turbulent 1920s to the modern era.

In the 1920, much of China was inaccessible and artists had a hard time travelling to beautiful destinations. For many, painting was the only way to see the places they imagined.

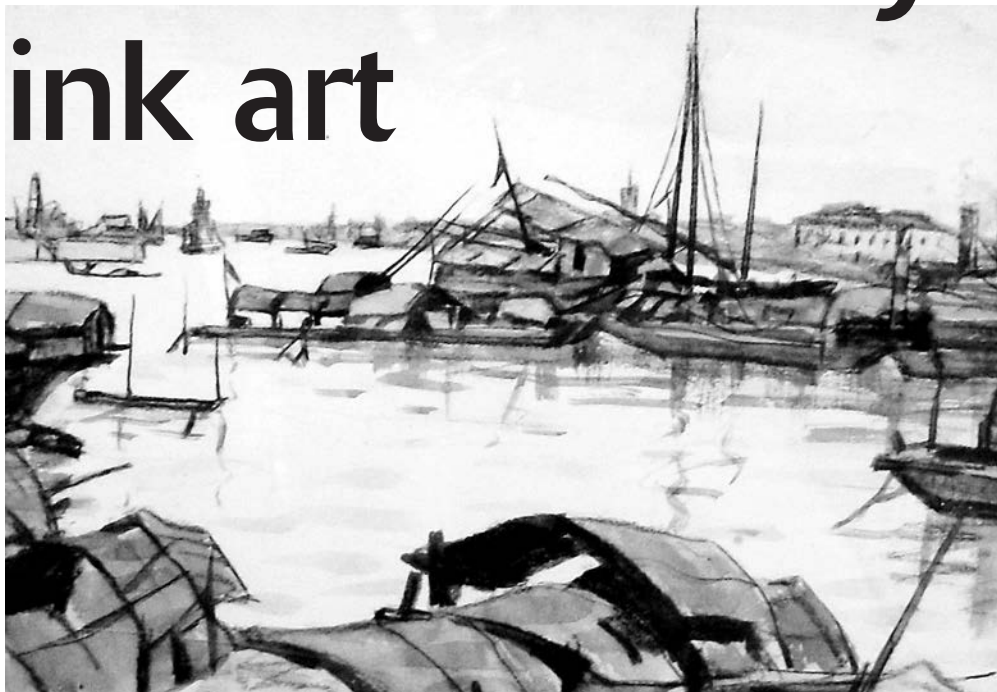
The era produced such famous painters as Wang Yuezhi, Zhang Meixun, Guan

Guangzhi, Yang Taiyang, Pan Sitong and Li Jianchen, whose works blend the skills of western oil painting with dreamy traditional ink.

Zhang Meixun and Guan Guangzhi are especially significant, as they capture the natural scenery and daily life of a Taiwan prior to a Japanese crackdown on Chinese culture that began during World War II.

"It's rare to see Taiwanese master paintings returned to the motherland," said Xu Zhanren, chairman of Chinese Ink Painting Association. "We see it as a sign of their dedication to traditional arts and rejection of Japanese culture."

After the founding of the People's Republic of China,



Fishing Harvest in China's East Sea by Hua Ting

Photos by Zhao Hongyi

artists were rebranded "professional revolutionary cadres" and asked to use their art to capture the real life of the people and times.

Famous artists of this era include Gu Yuan, Shen Roujian and Wu Guanzhong, whose landscapes show a timeless search for freedom and communication with nature.

During the Cultural Revolution year, Wu Guanzhong, former president of the Chinese Central Academy of Contemporary Art, took leave to create many paintings that reflected life in seaside villages and urban centers.

Ha Ding, another master of traditional painting, used his brush to capture many scenes of Old Shanghai and the natural scenery of the northern plateau before 1949.

Since the reforms of the 1980s, artists have been given considerable space to



Spring by Hua Yiyu

explore and express themselves. Many focus on edgier and more challenging topics, such as the turmoil of modern life.

Most master works focus on beautiful scenery, work and everyday life. They tend to be practical and accessible to viewers – more so than

emotionally-driven contemporary works.

"Chinese ink painting is a skill compatible to Western oil painting," said Xu Zhanren, chairman of the Chinese Ink Painting Association. "The master works of the past leave us with tremendous space to think, imitate and learn."



Families by Sea by Wang Weixin

## TV studios, animators take Beijing's best abroad

By Zhao Hongyi

The city government hopes the 2013 TV Festival de Cannes will be the opportunity to introduce Chinese TV to the world.

Beijing Visual Media, Zhonglian Huameng Cultural Media Investment, Miaoying Animation Design and Jingdu Century Culture Development took the city's best films and TV series to the festival to seek international distributors.

This was the fifth year Beijing sent film production companies to participate.

As in past years, the city is using the platform to introduce Beijing films to the world and draw more foreign pro-

ductions into the city.

"European viewers want to learn more about China and have a strong interest in documentaries made in Beijing," said Paul Babarow, head of the Asia-Pacific Organizing Committee for TV Festival de Cannes. "Chinese documentaries have improved by leaps and bounds, and the direction they are headed helps broaden their appeal."

Beijing's film and TV series have toured several international festivals to solicit new ways to introduce the shows abroad. The delegations have signed more than a dozen agreements to distribute the shows through



Celebrities support Beijing TV at the festival

foreign partners.

"The most important thing is the script. We have to improve the way we communicate our rich history to our foreign audience," said Mou Xiaochun, general manager of Jingdu Century Culture Development.

This year, Miaoying Ani-



The Beijing Pavilion at Cannes

BYD Photos

mation Design is cooperating with several foreign companies on its production.

In 2010, it joined the

national TV channel of Singapore to produce several philosophy books like *Chinese Students Rules*.



# New items for a new season

By Annie Wei

The weather has been changing fast since the National Holiday.

Skirts and shorts are no longer suitable for outdoor wear. The air has become so dry that you might consider changing your skin care products. Relaxing sandals will have to head back to the closet!

*Beijing Today* has scouted some of the latest trends for the season and offers a few recommendations to protect you from the inside out.



## Red lipstick

This idea came from the editor of Cosmo China. For busy, working women, there's no easier accessory than red lipstick. It matches most dark winter outfits and makes people feel you pay attention to your appearance.



## Grippy soles

Fashion is not always about superficial appearance. This season, tooth-shaped soles are popular with brands like Palladium, a French military shoe brand and Reef Krakoff, a fashion label from New York.

The soles reduce the chance of slipping on an icy floor.

## Camper-cameleon farmer's shoes

Established in Spain in 1981, Camper is considered one of the most comfortable shoes with a well-designed sole and quality material.

We loved this pair of wool sandals with simple white and blue stripes. It's cozy to wear at home.



## Espirit's Marin Tortoise

Forget about Omega, Rolex or Cartier. For most young women, watches are more an accessory than a statement of social status. The Espirit time line offers cost effective and chic designs. Its Marin Mortois series has a tortoise shell strap and neutral color that looks simple and elegant.



## New scented candles

Candles bring warmth. Pick out a few new ones with nice scents like chocolate, cinnamon or rose to pamper yourself.



## Exaggerated necklace

These pair well with cold weather outfits. The heavy design helps the necklace to stand out against chunky clothes while still appearing delicate.

Photo caption: Necklace by Paul Smith's, US \$5,600



## New skincare

This brand is made in China and claims to use glacial water from the Himalayas and ginseng essence to protect your skin from the cold.

Chando (starting from 100 yuan) is available at many stores like Watson's.

CFP Photos



# Bloggers name China's nine best wines



Ningxia is the top region for making wine and attracts winemakers from abroad.

CFP Photos

By Annie Wei

Capital M hosts a monthly wine tasting. Blogger and wine expert Jim Boyce (beijingboyce.com) helped select nine wines for its latest tasting session.

The wines are made from grapes grown in provinces ranging from Ningxia to Shandong.

China is a growing wine market with huge potential; more and more wine importers and distributors, as well as established companies like Pernod Richard and Hennessy, are making wines for the domestic market.

Boyce said it was hard to find good Chinese wines only eight years ago, "Now? I started with 20 potential wines and had a tough time narrowing it down to nine," he said.

The tasting was divided into three phases with three white wines contrasting Chardonnays; three value reds with a top price of 128 yuan and the top reds, priced 500 to 1,000 yuan, considered some of China's best.

Among the nine wines, we recommend 1421 'Silver' Chardonnay 2010, which costs 88 yuan but is fresh tasting and easy to drink.



One of the recommended Chinese wines

The wine is made in Xinjiang and bottled in Shandong. It's available at stores such as Metro, Mokihi and Scarlett in Hotel G.

For a better white wine, consider Domaine Helan Mountain's 'Special Reserve' Chardonnay 2011 (230 yuan).

This wine is made by Pernod Ricard in Ningxia only during years with top-quality grapes. Many people at the tasting said they liked it: it is barrel-fermented and has a good balance of fruit and oak.

Although many budget reds were acceptable, the top tier picks were vastly better. One was Silver Heights 'The Summit' 2011, priced 500 yuan. It's a good wine that smells of tobacco, dark cherries and violets. You can find it at Grill 79 and Everwines.

Another was Helan Qing Xue 'Jia-Bei-Lan' 2009, priced 898 yuan. The wine was China's first to win a Decanter 'International Award' in 2009. It has dark fruit and a spicy smell. Helan Qing Xue is best enjoyed after being decanted for a few hours. It's available from Wine Republic and at Morton's and Temple.

## Other wines in the tasting include:

- Grace Vineyard 'Tasya's Reserve' Chardonnay 2009: This has a decent combination of oak and fruit for 199 yuan. You can get it at Everwines.
- Chateau Hansen 'Cabernet Gernischt' 2011. This winery is from Inner Mongolia, just north of Mt. Helan, Ningxia Province. It's fruity and fairly light. You can buy it for 128 yuan at The Loop or at Chez Julien. It is distributed by China Wines & Spirits.
- Great River Hill 'Chateau Nine Peaks' Cabernet Sauvignon 2011. This is a full-bodied and fruity wine with an initial taste of sweetness. The influence of the oak is evident. It costs 128 yuan and is available at

The Loop and Temple.

- Grace Vineyard 'People's Series' Cabernet Sauvignon 2011. Made with grapes from the Ningxia vineyard of Shanxi-based Grace, this is a medium-bodied, reasonably fruity wine with a black pepper finish. The propaganda poster label makes it a great gift. Just released in Beijing, it is handled by Torres and retails for 99 yuan.

- Moser Changyu XV: There's a lot of fresh fruit in this smooth wine. The smoothness is surprising, given the 12.5 percent alcohol. This one is also stocked by Berry Bros & Rudd in London.



Ducked topped with salted lemons and peppers



Homemade salted lemons CFP Photos

## Made from the Market

"Made from the Market" is a column dedicated to new dishes we learn from moms and amateur cooks in the local community. Each is simple to make at home.

## Salted lemon sauce

By Annie Wei

Tao Yi loves food: she spends most of her mornings at the markets, selecting meat and looking for the freshest fish and vegetables for her family of eight.

This week she shares a recipe for traditional lemon sauce, an inexpensive condiment that goes well with deep-fried, broiled or grilled meats such as duck and beef.

Tao says imported lemons (15 yuan for 500 grams) have a beautiful yellow color and a clear juice that works well with salads, but local lemons (8 yuan for six at the morning market) are good enough for making sauce.

"In the South, every family makes jam with salted lemons," she says. People buy them in bulk when they are in season and cheap, and then clean, salt and dry them in a glass jar.

"You have to make sure you add a layer of salt for each layer of lemons," Tao says. Proper layering can help the lemons to last for years.

After a few months, the salted lemons turn brown and shrink, indicating that they are ready.

"In summer, our kids will take out a lemon, smash it and add some sugar and ice water," Tao says. "It makes a delicious DIY beverage that also helps to soothe the throat."

When cooking, Tao uses one or two salted lemons and chops them with garlic. Add a few drops oil on the pan, fry them and then add a little water to get salted lemon juice.

Tao says it is most used in preparing duck dishes.

"Duck legs are cheap at the market, starting from 3 yuan each for frozen ones," Tao says.

She buys five duck legs, removes the bones and marinates them with salt, Chinese rice wine and soy sauce. After that, she pan fries them and cuts them into slices.

For a typical Chinese dinner, pair the fried duck with strong lemon sauce, rice, fried vegetables, rib stew and a plate of lily roots.